General Assembly

Distr.: General
25 February 2004

Fifty-eighth session
Agenda item 102

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/58/492)*]

58/228. Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 55/279 of 12 July 2001, in which it endorsed the Brussels Declaration[1] and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010,[2] and its resolution 57/276 of 20 December 2002 on the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries,

Reaffirming its resolution 55/2 of 8 September 2000, by which it adopted the United Nations Millennium Declaration, in particular paragraph 15 thereof, in which the heads of State and Government undertook to address the special needs of the least developed countries,

Recalling Economic and Social Council decision 2001/320 of 24 October 2001, in which the Council decided to establish a regular sub-item entitled "Review and coordination of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010",

Taking note of Economic and Social Council resolution 2003/17 of 22 July 2003, in which the Council took note of the progress report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries,[3]

Taking note also of Economic and Social Council decision 2003/287 of 24 July 2003, in which the Council adopted the theme "Resources mobilization and enabling environment for poverty eradication in the context of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010" as the theme of its high-level segment of 2004,

Taking note further of the report of the Secretary-General,[3]

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[1] A/CONF.191/13, chap. I.

[2] Ibid., chap. II.

[3] A/58/86-E/2003/81.

1. *Expresses its deep concern* over the weak implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010,[2] and expresses its expectation of more vigorous implementation by all partners;

2. *Reiterates* that the Programme of Action offers a framework for partnership, based on mutual commitments by the least developed countries and their development partners to undertake concrete actions in a number of interlinked areas, as set out in the Programme of Action;

3. *Calls upon* the least developed countries to continue, with the support of their development partners, to fulfil their commitments and to promote the implementation of the actions contained in the Programme of Action by translating them into specific measures within their national development frameworks and poverty eradication strategies, in particular poverty reduction strategy papers, where they exist, with the involvement of civil society, including the private sector, on the basis of a broad-based inclusive dialogue, as well as to continue to promote an enabling environment for the effective mobilization and utilization of resources consistent with paragraph 82 of the Programme of Action;

4. *Calls upon* the development partners of the least developed countries, including the multilateral financial institutions, to fulfil their commitments regarding the effective and expeditious implementation of the Programme of Action, and urges the developed countries that have not yet done so to make concrete efforts to effectively implement their commitments on official development assistance to the least developed countries, as contained in paragraph 83 of the Programme of Action;

5. *Urges* the least developed countries and their development partners to make the Programme of Action an effective tool for the implementation of the poverty reduction strategies at the national level for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration;

6. *Invites* the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions, and all other international organizations, within their respective mandates, to support as a priority the implementation of the Programme of Action, including programmes of financial and technical cooperation devoted to the least developed countries in support of their national development programmes, including their poverty reduction strategies;

7. *Stresses* the need for the effective implementation of the Programme of Action and its annual assessment at the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council, and recognizes in this regard the critical importance of the participation of the least developed countries in the assessment process of the Programme of Action;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take appropriate measures to facilitate the participation of government representatives from the least developed countries in the annual assessment by the Economic and Social Council of the Programme of Action within the context of the overall financial provisions established by the General Assembly in its resolution 1798 (XVII) of 11 December 1962 and subsequent amendments;

9. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to take appropriate measures, within existing resources and with the full participation of the regional commissions and relevant United Nations bodies, to support the participation of the least developed

countries in international meetings, as well as in their preparation and consultation processes;

10. *Emphasizes* the importance of coordinating action within the United Nations system for the implementation of the Programme of Action, and calls upon the Secretary-General to take appropriate measures to ensure the efficiency and effectiveness of the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States to fulfil its functions in accordance with General Assembly resolution 56/227 of 24 December 2001;

11. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General to submit, through the Economic and Social Council, an annual progress report on the implementation of the Programme of Action in a more analytical and results-oriented way by placing greater emphasis on concrete results and indicating the progress achieved in its implementation.

78th plenary meeting
23 December 2003